

GERMANS CONTINUE TO STORM VERDUN

TEUTONS CONTINUE TO STRIKE IN THE TERRITORY AROUND VERDUN.

The Germans still are carrying on strong offensive operations northeast and northwest of Verdun. About four and one-half miles northeast of the fortress they penetrated the Caillotte wood, just outside Fort Douaumont, after a violent bombardment.

From part of this wood the French in an immediate counterattack drove back the invaders.

Another powerful attack was delivered against that portion of the Avocourt wood held by the French, but here the French barrier fire and machine guns held the Germans without gain.

The French now have entirely evacuated the village of Vaux and have drawn their lines south of the town, but in its immediate outskirts.

Berlin says that northeast of Haucourt, between Malancourt and Le Mort Homme the Germans have entirely cleared the French from about 1,000 yards of trenches, where they remained since the German victory on this sector March 30.

On the other sectors about Verdun there have been only intermittent bombardments; artillery duels have characterized the action along the remainder of the front.

Air craft have been very active around Verdun. The French brought down three German machines, but Berlin asserts that the aerial combats have resulted in their favor. Both sides have been busily engaged in dropping bombs on military establishments at various points. Greater activity than usual has been displayed in the fighting between the Germans and Russians in the region of Baranovich, southwest of Minsk. Elsewhere on the Russian front the situation is unchanged.

Three British and one Norwegian steamer have been sunk by submarines or mines. Two of the British boats, the liner Achilles and the Ashurton were on their way to London from Australian ports. The British steamer Goldmouth was on a voyage to London from Texas with oil. The Norwegian boat was the Peter Hamre. She was sunk while at anchor. Of her crew of 15 only one man escaped.

Four members of the crew of the Achilles are missing, two of the crew of the Goldmouth were wounded when landed, and five members of the crew of the Ashurton were taken to a hospital for shrapnel wounds.

Scotland and the northern and southern coasts of England have received visitations from Zeppelins, which dropped bombs at various places.

In an air raid on the northeast coast of England Friday and Saturday nights 59 persons were killed and 166 wounded.

EXTRA SESSIONS IS NOW ADVOCATED BY McLAURIN

Columbia, March 30.—(Special.)—An extra session of the General Assembly to be called for the purpose of enacting a law for State insurance was suggested to Governor Manning this afternoon by John L. McLaurin, State Warehouse Commissioner, who in a letter to the Governor says: "The situation has reached a point where it is necessary that you call the legislature together to provide for State insurance." He says that he is convinced that the fire insurance companies are determined to make a fight to the finish and he does not believe in surrendering to them, and the only alternative is for the State to go into the fire insurance business.

The Warehouse Commissioner in "passing the buck" to the Governor says he thought he had the cotton warehouse insurance safe but that the big companies are whipping the little companies into line and that nothing can be done. The only thing, he says, to do is for the State to go into the insurance business. Sen. McLaurin suggests to the formation of a State warehouse insurance by each warehouse taking stock in a central company, pay the premiums a year in advance and the central company to reinsure.

He also approves of the formation of mutals and suggests that the state make arrangements to borrow \$1,000,000 to start off the State insurance company.

COOPER IS PLEASED.

Columbia, March 29.—R. A. Cooper, of Laurens, solicitor of the 8th judicial circuit and candidate for Governor, passed through Columbia yesterday on his way to Batesburg, where he was to speak last night.

Mr. Cooper had nothing to say for publication as to what his attitude on public questions would be in the approaching campaign. A definite and comprehensive statement "will be made in due time," he explained. His announcement is meeting with more generous approbation than he anticipated, he said. Letters from all sections of the state are reaching him, he said, endorsing his candidacy and pledging him support.

U. S. AGENCIES ON GASOLINE INQUIRY

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO SAY WHETHER PROSECUTIONS ARE WARRANTED.

Washington, April 2.—Government agencies investigating the spectacular rise in the price of gasoline have virtually concluded preliminary phases of their work and will report to congress this week. In the meantime the department of justice will consider the evidence with a view to determining whether prosecutions are warranted under the anti-trust law.

Every available field agent of the federal trade commission has been assigned to the gasoline inquiry under the direction of Commissioner W. J. Harris. Reports by the various companies involved have been checked so far as possible. Crude oil producers, manufacturing companies, pipe lines, selling agencies, even tank wagons, in every section of the country have been under surveillance.

The department of justice virtually left the entire inquiry to the commission. Complaints received by the attorney general have been forwarded for investigation to the commission and have been added to hundreds of similar complaints received by the commission itself. It is considered unlikely that the attorney general will decide finally whether the evidence warrants prosecutions until the commission shall have concluded its inquiry a month or more hence.

The first report to congress will contain comparative figures showing the amount of gasoline and crude oil produced at present and two or three years ago, the volume exported, relative costs of production, amounts sold in each section of the country then and now and comparative wholesale and retail prices. No comment will be made on the reasons for the rise.

A second report, data for which is not yet complete, will supplement the first with an analysis of the situation and will set forth reasons to which the commission attributes the tremendous increase.

The investigation has been conducted with a view to determining four salient points as follows:

- 1. The extent of production and use of gasoline now and two and three years ago.
- 2. The volume of gasoline exported and the supply remaining here for domestic use particularly as to whether the rise or any portion of it could be attributed to a scarcity of product.
- 3. Whether there has been discrimination by big producers in favor of big buyers.
- 4. Whether there is actual competition among the former elements that went to make up the oil trust; if there is, to what extent and how the small independent producer is affected thereby.

The department of justice has been particularly interested in all phases of the investigation which would shed light on the possibility of a connection between the rise and the administration's proposal recently to levy an emergency revenue tax of 1 cent a gallon on gasoline. This phase of the investigation is said to be incomplete.

It is understood that the forthcoming report to congress will not fully support the recent announcement of the department of the interior that more gasoline was being produced and on hand than ever before. It is understood that the report will state that the present does not mark the high tide of production and that while there is a great quantity of gasoline on hand the supply is not as large as it was some time ago. This report, it is said, will be based on later figures than those used by the interior department.

Representative Bailey, of Pennsylvania, announced tonight that he would introduce a bill tomorrow to authorize the secretary of the interior to sink oil wells on public lands and market the product, giving preference to independent refiners to prevent arbitrary increase in prices.

CALLS IN CIRCUIT JUDGES.

Columbia.—An en banc session of the supreme court and the circuit judges of the state has been called for Friday, April 14, to pass on the legality of the election establishing McCormick county out of portions of Greenwood, Abbeville and Edgefield counties. The order for the en banc session states that there is a question of constitutionality involved in the matter upon which the supreme court justices cannot agree and they have decided to call the circuit judges to their assistance.

SAPP SUCCEEDS DOMINICK

Columbia, March 30.—(Special.)—Claude N. Sapp of Lancaster, was this afternoon appointed assistant attorney-general and instructed to report for duty Monday. Announcement of the appointment was made by Attorney-General Peeples. Mr. Sapp succeeds F. H. Dominick, of Newberry, who resigned and returned to his home in Newberry two weeks ago.

THIRD ANNUAL FIELD DAY FRIDAY--PROGRAM

BIG CROWD IS EXPECTED HERE NEXT FRIDAY AT ABBEVILLE COUNTY SCHOOL FIELD DAY.

Great plans are being made for the School Field Day on April 7th. It is thought that this will be the greatest day for the schools of the county Abbeville has ever seen. Schools all over the county are getting ready for this day.

Some minor changes were made in the program last Saturday at the meeting of the county teachers at Due West. Both prizes for floats were raised to \$20.00. There will be two contests in spelling for the second and third grades—one for each grade. In judging the contest for the school having the largest per cent of pupils in the parade, only resident pupils of the district will be considered. Free tickets to the Fair Grounds will be given all children in the parade.

The people of Abbeville have kindly offered to entertain all the contestants in the preliminary contests in declamation Thursday night, provided their names are sent to Miss Mae Robertson, Abbeville, S. C., before April 5th. Any teachers who wish to come to Abbeville Thursday will be entertained also, if they will send their names to Miss Robertson.

PROGRAMME.

- 10 A. M.—Class Room Contests, Graded School Building.
- 12 M.—Parade—Form at Graded School Building.
- 1 P. M.—Dinner.
- 2 P. M.—Athletics at Fair Grounds.
- 8 P. M.—Declamation Contest at Theatre.

PARADE—12 O'CLOCK.

The parade will consist of school children in line with banners, flags, followed by floats. Each school is urged to have at least one large banner with the name of school. It is also urged that each school have a float. A teacher should be in charge of each school. All school children without teachers, will, however, report to the Chairman of Committee on Parade and be assigned place in parade.

The parade will begin at the Graded School Building at twelve o'clock sharp, march to the square and around same forming on the west side to review the floats which will immediately follow the children. The parade will be led by band. All floats not ready to move at the command of the chairman will be ruled out.

PRIZES.

Schools will be divided into two classes. Class A—Schools having only one teacher. Class B—Schools having more than one teacher.

Best Float by School Class A—\$20.00, Best Float by School Class B—\$20.00. School (any class) having the largest per cent resident yearly enrollment present and in line during parade—\$5.00.

ATHLETICS—2 P. M.

All athletics contests will be held according to rules given by the Inter-High School Athletic and Oratorical Association of South Carolina. A copy of these rules may be gotten by writing to the University of South Carolina for a Bulletin of these rules.

No pupil may enter contests unless he or she has been enrolled and in attendance in some school in the county during at least three months of the last four months immediately preceding Field Day. Each teacher is responsible for the observance of this rule, and any one violating this rule may be debarred from contests.

All contestants must report to L. L. Moore, Chairman, at the Fair Grounds at 2 o'clock and receive further instructions as to the contests or be ruled out of contests. Points will be counted as follows: First Winner—Five Points. Second Winner—Three Points. Third Winner—One Point.

In case of tie in any event, the points shall be divided and a prize given to each contestant.

A handsome banner will be given the school winning the most points. A prize valued at Five Dollars will be given to the school winning the next highest number of points but this school must not be in the same class as school winning banner. (Schools classified as given under Parade.)

Contestants must provide their own eggs and sacks for these races. Slippers must not be worn in shoe race.

In all cases the decision of the judges will be final.

EVENTS AND PRIZES.

- 1—50 yard race for boys under 12 years old—\$1.00
- 2—50 yard race for girls under 12 years old—1.00
- 3—220 yard race for boys under 15 years old—1.00
- 4—One-third mile race for boys over 15 years old—1.00
- 5—Shoe race for boys under 14 years old—1.00
- 6—Three-legged race for any two

- boys—1.00
- 7—Sack race for boys and girls under 15 years old—1.00
- 8—Apple race for boys and girls under 12 years old—1.00
- 9—Relay race for any three boys, one mile—1.00
- 10—Pole vault, boys any age—1.00
- 11—Shot put, boys over 12 years old (shot 12 lbs.)—1.00
- 12—Running high jump, boys any age—1.00
- 13—Running broad jump, boys any age—1.00
- 14—Baseball throwing contest, from 10 to 16 years old—1.00
- 15—Baseball throwing contest, over 16 years—1.00
- 16—100 yard dash, boys over 18 years old—1.00
- 17—1 mile race boys any age—1.00

DECLAMATION CONTEST 8 P. M.

High School Contest, Grades 8, 9, 10

Two medals will be offered, one to the best boy speaker, and one to the best girl speaker of the county.

Each school should hold a preliminary contest and select one boy and one girl to represent the school.

The committee will hold a preliminary contest in which the number of contestants shall be reduced to five boys and five girls for the final contest. This preliminary contest shall be held in the Abbeville County Court House on Thursday night. Each declamation shall be limited to ten minutes.

Grammar School Contest, Grades 5, 6, and 7.

Two medals are offered, one to the best boy speaker and one to the best girl speaker from these grades. Only two contestants will be allowed from each school.

Preliminary contest will be held Thursday night before Field Day in the High School Building. The ten best speakers, five boys and five girls, will be selected to speak in the final contest.

No speech may be over five minutes.

COMMITTEES.

Class Room Contests—Miss Florence Bradford, Chairman, Calhoun Falls, S. C.; R. F. D.; Miss Mary Bagwell, Honea Path, S. C.; R. 3.; Miss Aileen Herron, Abbeville, S. C.; Mrs. E. P. Jones, Abbeville, S. C.; R. F. D. 2.; Mrs. Lizzie M. Cason, Abbeville, S. C.

Parade—R. B. Cheatham, Chairman, Abbeville, S. C.; Miss Mabel Campbell, Abbeville, S. C.; Jno. W. Huff, Willington, S. C.; Miss Maud Livingston, Abbeville, S. C.; R. F. D.; Rev. H. B. Blakely, Willington, S. C.

Athletics—L. L. Moore, Chairman, Abbeville, S. C.; O. M. Nickles, Hodges, S. C.; Miss Connie Morrow, McCormick, S. C.; H. D. Brown, Abbeville, S. C.; Route 1.; N. H. Fender, Lowndesville, S. C.

High School Declamation—H. B. Blakely, Chairman, Due West, S. C.; L. C. Kirby, Donalds, S. C.; Miss Mary F. Poole, Abbeville, S. C.

Grammar School Declamation—Miss Ione Smith, Chairman, Abbeville, S. C.; Miss Grace Crawford, Due West, S. C.; Miss Mary Rudisail, Abbeville, S. C.

PARADE—FORMATION.

- 1. Mayor and Chief of Police in Automobile.
- 2. J. L. Grier, President County Teachers' Association and R. B. Cheatham, Chairman Committee Parade, mounted.
- 3. Band.
- 4. Teachers and pupils in line by schools alphabetically.
- 5. Floats—Class "A", first, Class "B" second.

The Parade will start promptly at twelve o'clock.

All teachers and children in the parade will be given free tickets to Athletic Contest at Fair Grounds. All others must buy their tickets before they will be admitted. No vehicle, except the "Floats," will be allowed to stop on Main Street between the Baptist Church and Nickles Ave., between the hours of eleven and twelve-thirty. It is absolutely necessary to keep this part of Main Street open at that hour.

All teachers are requested to look out for any children who might be present without their teacher. Five dollars will be given to the school having in line of march the largest per cent present of the yearly resident enrollment.

Twenty dollars will be given for the best float of each class. Floats tying will divide prizes. The judges decision will be final.

R. B. Cheatham, Chairman Com. Parade.

DECLAMATION CONTEST.

The preliminary contest of the Abbeville City Schools for Field Day was held in the Court House Friday night, March 31. The program was as follows: FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL—Ada Faulkner—"The Fire Fiend."

VILLA NOT WOUNDED VILLA NOT CAPTURED

NO CONFIRMATION, HOWEVER, OF THE PERSISTENT REPORTS—MORE TROOPS SENT.

Columbus, N. M., April 2.—Army men here were considerably disturbed today by numerous warnings from confidential sources that adherents of Francisco Villa were gathering in the Chihuahua desert, both north and south of Ascension and near the motor trail leading from Columbus to Casas Grandes for the purpose of attempting to cut the line of communication of the American punitive expedition in Mexico.

An extra heavy guard of infantrymen, with specific instructions in event of attack was placed on a truck train, which left here for the front today. Isolated camps of soldiers guarding the line were reached by field telegraph and ordered to watch closely for signs of hostile forces. Lieut. A. W. Gullier, 20th infantry, of Lexington, Ky., adjutant of the base, left by train for Colonia Dublan, where he will attempt to co-ordinate more closely the work of the expeditionary force and that of the base camp.

North from the town of Guerrero and east of the Mexican Northwest line through Arroyos and over trails through the buttes and canyons of the Sierra Tarahumare, American cavalrymen of the seventh regiment are riding night and day seeking Villa, according to reports from field headquarters at Colonia Dublan.

Villa Captured.

There were persistent reports that the forces of Col. Dodd had captured the bandit leader but because of difficulty in communication had been unable to report. Late advices from Gen. Pershing's camp stated that the track of a vehicle believed to be carrying Villa in his flight, had been discovered.

Unofficial information here today was that several scores of Villa's adherents, captured or wounded in the engagement at San Geronimo ranch last Wednesday are expected here during the night. The four American troopers wounded in the same battle, it was, suffered wounds not serious enough to necessitate their being brought here and probably will be taken to the field hospital at Casas Grandes for treatment.

While the usual precautions were taken to prevent trouble among the soldiers here who receive their monthly pay today, the usual pay day excitement in a military camp was absent, the men apparently realizing the seriousness of the task before the troops.

When Jesus Sanca and his daughter crossed the American line today at Palmos, the first Mexican town through which the American troops passed on their way to the front was left without human inhabitants.

News From Front Reaches Washington.

Washington, April 2.—Sunday brought no news to the war department about the hunt for Villa. Since the report came of how Col. Dodd and his troops had routed the main command of the outlaw chief, no word has reached Washington regarding the operations of the Mexican expedition.

Secretary Baker received nothing but routine telegrams from Gen. Funston.

Hope for the early capture of Villa still prevails in official quarters, but some of the seasoned army campaigners fear that failure to take him at Guerrero may result in a long chase.

Admiral Winslow, reporting to the navy department today on conditions along the west Mexican coast, said that although the situation at present was quiet there were signs of unrest among the natives.

Investigations by commanders of naval vessels in Mexican waters, both on the east and west coasts, of reports that Felix Diaz is in Mexico heading a new revolution, have failed even to establish that Diaz is in that country.

WOUND IN HIP WAS A STORY CONCOCTED BY VILLA AS A RUSE.

El Paso, April 3.—Villa, unwounded and with only eight men, was at Satevo, fifty miles south of Chihuahua City two days ago, according to information received here from reliable Mexican resources. If this is correct it bears out previous reports that the bandit is headed towards Parral and is leading his American pursuers by at least sixty miles. The route Villa is supposed to have taken from Guerrero is known to natives as "Pancho's road." The man who brought the story here said Villa has never taken part in any fighting with Americans. He left his main band at Guerrero with instructions to oppose American as far as possible. He said the story that Villa was wounded and given to peons with instructions to tell it to the Americans. The American column, fooled at first, he said, is on the right track now and is driving towards Villa with the advantage of a good road and without the handicap of lack of forage and water.

A bachelor who reads the marriage notices isn't satisfied with his lot.

MAKE EFFORT FOR SIX CAPITAL SHIPS

COMPROMISE BETWEEN DANIEL'S PLAN AND GENERAL BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION

Washington, April 3.—The house naval committee brought to an end today prolonged hearings on the 1917 naval appropriation bill. Secretary Daniels closed a three-day statement before the committee with a final appeal in support of the administration's five-year building program. A sub-committee immediately will begin framing the bill.

It became known tonight that a determined effort would be made to provide for six capital ships, two dreadnaughts and four battle cruisers, as a compromise between the recommendations of the secretary and of the navy general board.

Mr. Daniels parried all efforts today to get a statement as to what relative place among naval powers the United States should occupy. He said the five year program he had mapped out would not put the country in second place, in his judgment and that the present congress could not be asked to make up for deficiencies of 20 years past. At the close of the war he believed a great opportunity would come for international limitation of armament and with a strong building program adopted, the United States would be in a better position to urge that movement successfully than if its fleet was weak.

TEST CONSTITUTIONALITY OF ANTI-COMPACT LAW

Columbia March 30.—(Special.)—The constitutionality of the anti-compact law, which caused the withdrawal of the fire insurance companies from South Carolina, will be tested before the supreme court immediately. This action was decided on at a meeting here to-day of the committee of business men named at the recent State wide conference on this subject. The committee was instructed to employ attorneys to bring the suit testing the act and the chairman was authorized to name county chairmen who are to call meeting in each county of business men, farmers and members of the legislature to consider the situation. The following members of the committee were here for the meeting: B. F. McLeod, of Charleston, chairman; G. H. Edwards, of Darlington; B. E. Child, of Whitmire, William Otis and R. W. Holcombe both of Columbia.

U. S. FIGURES SHOW DESTRUCTION OF 646,000 TONNAGE OF NAVAL VESSELS.

Washington, April 1.—Official information of the General Staff of the United States as to European war losses up to January 1, 1916, was transmitted to Senator McCumber by General Hugh L. Scott. Senator McCumber obtained the figures for use in an anti-preparedness speech. The estimates follow:

Losses in Men.	
France (estimated 800,000 killed)	2,000,000
Germany (estimated 580,000 killed)	2,500,000
Austria-Hungary (estimated 1,000,000 killed)	5,000,000
Great Britain	620,000
Italy	175,000
Serbia	228,000
Belgium	160,000
Turkey	228,000
Total	\$13,033,000

General Scott points out that since last August the War College has received no official list of casualties from any Government except the British.

Estimates of Expenditures.

England	\$14,000,000,000
France	7,500,000,000
Germany	8,000,000,000
Austria	5,500,000,000
Italy	4,500,000,000
Total	\$39,500,000,000

Loss in Naval Vessels.

Allies.	
Battleships	No. 9 Tonnage 121,858
Cruisers	17 136,604
Gunboats	5 4,480
Submarines	13 8,172
Destroyers	8 4,283
Torpedo boats	7 1,622
Mine-layers	1 7
Armed liners	7 53,033
Total	68 330,002

Central Powers.

Battleships	No. 3 Tonnage 33,260
Cruisers	29 150,889
Gunboats	17 6,681
Submarines	15 2,945
Destroyers	10 4,560
Torpedo boats	14
Mine-layers	2 10,785
Armed liners	13 106,686
Total	103 315,756

GOING TO PRESBYTERY.

The Second Presbytery of the A. R. P. Church meets in Greenwood this week and Rev. M. R. Plaxco will attend from the Abbeville church. Mr. W. R. Bradley will be the delegate from the Abbeville church, and will extend an invitation to the Presbytery to meet in Abbeville in November.